

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for connecting multiple home-networked client devices to a host system, wherein the host system assigns independent Internet addresses to the home-networked client devices, the system comprising:

    a home gateway device which includes a communication device to communicate with the host system over a single communication tunnel established between the home gateway device and the host system; and

    multiple home-networked client devices connected to the home gateway device via a network and that communicate with the host system through the home gateway device over the single communication tunnel,

    wherein the host system is located at one end of the single communication tunnel and is configured to establish individual communication sessions with the multiple home-networked client devices over the single communication tunnel and to assign independent Internet addresses to each of the multiple home-networked client devices over the single communication tunnel.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device is physically located in a personal residence.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the personal residence is a single family dwelling.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device and the multiple home-networked client devices are physically located in a personal residence.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the personal residence is a single family dwelling.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the multiple home-networked client devices include wireless client devices that are connected to the home gateway device via a wireless network.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the wireless client devices operate outside of the personal residence.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the multiple home-networked client devices establish simultaneous individual communication sessions with the host system over the single communication tunnel and each of the multiple home-networked client device is assigned an independent Internet address by the host system.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the host system includes an Internet Service Provider.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device communicates with the multiple home-networked client devices using a first protocol and communicates with the host system using a second protocol.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the first protocol and the second protocol are the same.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the second protocol differs from the first protocol.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the home gateway device includes one or more modules that are structured and arranged to convert between the first protocol and the second protocol.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein:  
the home-networked client devices are PPP enabled;  
the first protocol is PPPoE; and  
the second protocol is L2TP.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the home gateway device emulates a  
PPPoE access concentrator and an L2TP access concentrator.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication device includes a  
modem.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the communication device includes a  
cable modem.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the communication device includes a  
satellite modem.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the communication device includes a  
DSL modem.

20. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the multiple home-networked client  
devices include client devices having computer software that enable the client devices to  
interface with the home gateway device and to communicate with the host system through the  
home gateway device, such that the host system is able to recognize independent client devices.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the independent client devices are  
recognized by the host system through the use of unique identifiers assigned to each of the client  
devices by the host system during the established communication session.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the unique identifiers are unique to the  
client devices.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the unique identifiers include independent Internet addresses.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the unique identifiers are unique to users of the client devices.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein at least one of the unique identifiers includes a unique identifier for a user of the client devices combined with an independent Internet address assigned to a client device.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein at least one of the unique identifiers for the user of the client devices includes a screen name.

27. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the multiple home-networked client devices are each assigned an independent Internet address by the host system that enables the host system to recognize a user of a home-networked client device, the user having a unique identifier that is which combined with the independent Internet address to allow the user access to individual information maintained by the host system for that user.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user having the unique identifier combined with the independent Internet address allows the host system to enforce host-based parental controls.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the individual information maintained by the host system includes wallet information.

30. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the individual information maintained by the host system includes calendar information.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the individual information maintained by the host system includes personalized web page information.

32. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device includes a personal computer.

33. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device includes a server.

34. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network includes a wired network.

35. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network includes a wireless network.

36. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network includes a wired and a wireless network.

37. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network includes an Ethernet network.

38. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device includes a dynamic host configuration protocol module.

39. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein:

the home gateway device includes:

a dynamic host configuration protocol module; and

an L2TP access concentrator; and

the multiple home-networked client devices communicate with the home gateway device using the dynamic host configuration protocol module.

40. (Currently amended ) The system of claim 39 wherein:

the network between the home gateway device and the multiple home-networked client devices uses the dynamic host configuration protocol module to enable the home gateway device to assign unique addresses to the multiple home-networked client devices;

the single communication tunnel established between the home gateway device and the host system is established over a broadband network; and

the dynamic host configuration module is configured to facilitate communications between the host system and the multiple home-networked client devices to enable the host system to enforce host-based parental controls.

41. (Currently amended) The system of claim 40 wherein the assignment of unique addresses is performed upon bootup of the multiple home-networked client devices.

42. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the home gateway device and the multiple home-networked client devices communicate over the network using DHCP and the multiple home-networked client devices are each assigned a single address that is used in communications with the home gateway device and the host system.

43. (Currently amended) A method for connecting multiple home-networked client devices to a host system, wherein the host system assigns independent Internet addresses to the home-networked client devices, the method comprising:

using the home gateway device to receive a request from at least one of multiple home-networked client devices to communicate with the host system, wherein the multiple home-networked client devices [is] are connected to the home gateway device via a network;

using the home gateway device to establish communications with the host system over a single communication tunnel;

using the home gateway device to receive independent Internet addresses from the host system, located at one end of the single communication tunnel, for each of the multiple home-networked client devices over the single communication tunnel;

using the home gateway device to establish with the host system an individual communication session over the single communication tunnel, wherein the individual communication session is based on an independent Internet address assigned by the host system to the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices that requested to communicate with the host system; and

using the home gateway device to process communications between the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices and the host system.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43 further comprising physically locating the home gateway device in a personal residence such that the request is received in the personal residence.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44 wherein the personal residence is a single family dwelling such that the request is received in the single family dwelling.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 further comprising physically locating the home gateway device and the multiple home-networked client devices in a personal residence such that the request is received in the personal residence.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46 wherein the personal residence is a single family dwelling such that the request is received in the single family dwelling.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 further comprising:  
using the home gateway device to establish with the host system multiple simultaneous individual communication sessions over the single communication tunnel, wherein the multiple simultaneous individual communication sessions are each based on an independent Internet address assigned to the multiple home-networked client devices that request to communicate with the host system; and  
using the home gateway device to process communications between the multiple home-networked client devices and the host system.

49. (Original) The method of claim 43 wherein the host system includes an Internet Service Provider.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 wherein using the home gateway device to process communications between the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices and the host system includes:

using the home gateway device to communicate with the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices using a first protocol; and

using the home gateway device to communicate with the host system using a second protocol.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the first protocol and the second protocol are the same.

52. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the second protocol differs from the first protocol.

53. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the first protocol includes PPPoE and the second protocol includes L2TP.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53 wherein the home gateway device includes a PPPoE access concentrator and an L2TP access concentrator.

55. (Currently amended ) The method of claim 50 wherein using the home gateway device to process communications includes:

removing a first header from the communications received from the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices destined for the host system;

adding a second header to the communications; and

sending the communications with the second header to the host system.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein using the home gateway device to process communications includes:

removing a third header from the communications received from the host system destined for the home-networked client device;

adding a fourth header to the communications; and

sending the communications with the fourth header to the home-networked client device.

57. (Original) The method of claim 43 wherein the home gateway device includes a dynamic host configuration protocol module.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 wherein using the home gateway device to process communications between the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices and the host system includes:

using the home gateway device to communicate with the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices using DHCP; and

using the home gateway device to communicate with the host system using L2TP.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43 wherein:

using the home gateway device to establish communications with the host system includes establishing communications with the host system over a broadband network; and

using the home gateway device to process communications between the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices and the host system includes the home gateway device using the host-assigned independent Internet address to communicate over the network with the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices.

60. (Currently amended) The method of claim 59 wherein the independent Internet address is assigned to the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices upon bootup.

61. (Currently amended) A method for connecting multiple home-networked client devices to a host system, wherein the host system assigns independent Internet addresses to the home-networked client devices, the method comprising:

using a host system, located at one end of a single communication tunnel, to assign independent Internet addresses to each of multiple home-networked client devices over the single communication tunnel;

using the host system to receive a request for an individual communication session with [(a)] at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices;

using the host system to establish communications with the home gateway device over [(a)] the single communication tunnel;

using the host system to establish with the home gateway device the individual communication session over the single communication tunnel, wherein establishing the individual communication session includes using the host system to assign an independent Internet address to the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices that requested to communicate with the host system; and

communicating between the host system and the at least one of the multiple home-networked client devices through the home gateway device over the individual communication session.

62. (Original) The method of claim 61 further comprising physically locating the home gateway device in a personal residence such that the request is received in the personal residence.

63. (Original) The method of claim 62 wherein the personal residence is a single family dwelling such that the request is received in the single family dwelling.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 61 further comprising physically locating the home gateway device and the multiple home-networked client devices in a personal residence such that the request is received in the personal residence.

65. (Original) The method of claim 64 wherein the personal residence is a single family dwelling such that the request is received in the single family dwelling.

66. (Currently amended) The method of claim 61 further comprising:  
using the host system to establish multiple simultaneous individual communication sessions with the multiple home gateway devices over the single communication tunnel, wherein establishing the multiple simultaneous individual communication sessions includes assigning an independent Internet address to each of the multiple home-networked client devices that requests to communicate with the host system; and

communicating between the host system and the multiple home-networked client devices through the home gateway device over the multiple simultaneous individual communication sessions.

67. (Currently amended) The method of claim 66 further comprising having the host system use the assigned independent Internet address to communicate individual information maintained by the host system to the multiple home-networked client devices.

68. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the individual information includes host-based parental controls.

69. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the individual information includes wallet information.

70. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the individual information includes calendar information.

71. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the individual information includes personalized web page information.

72. (Original) The method of claim 61 wherein the host system includes an Internet Service Provider.